Companies House reforms – transition timeline

Getting your business ready for what comes next

Timeline confirmed on 26 October 2026

The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 will transform the powers of Companies House and impose greater filing requirements on registered entities, their officers and owners. Our Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Hub page provides much more detail on the various reforms expected.

These reforms are coming into force in a phased way and the planned implementation timetable is summarised below.

Date/Period	Reform
From 4 March 2024	• Increased powers to query and reject new information, remove inaccurate information and improve data sharing with law enforcement agencies and regulators. • Requirement to have an appropriate registered office address and registered email address and regularly confirm lawful nature of a company's activities.
From 2 May 2024	Companies House can impose financial penalties for relevant offences. Guidance published on 27 September 2024.
From 27 January 2025	Individuals can ask for their residential address to be suppressed from public disclosure in certain circumstances.
From 18 March 2025	• Accelerated striking off of companies formed on a false basis • Professional service providers (including company formation agents, accountants and solicitors) can register as Authorised Corporate Service Providers (ACSPs). This will allow them to carry out ID verification services for their clients and submit these details (and other filings) to Companies House. ACSPs must be registered in the UK and subject to the UK's anti-money laundering regime.
From 8 April 2025	Ability for individuals to voluntarily verify their identification with Companies House.
From 21 July 2025	Individuals can ask for their day of birth, signature, business occupation and residential address to be suppressed from public disclosure in certain circumstances.
By 31 August 2025	Access on request to certain trust information on the Register of Overseas Entities.
From 18 November 2025	• Identity verification compulsory for incorporations and new appointments for new directors and PSCs. • Start of 12 months transition period for existing companies to provide identity verification for all individual directors and PSCs. For existing directors (and PSC directors) this will happen as part of the annual confirmation statement filing. For PSCs who are not directors, and individual directors of overseas companies with UK establishments, there are different timelines.

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By no earlier than the end of 2026	• Limited partnerships to submit more information, providing greater transparency. • Compliance activity to begin against individuals who have failed to verify their identity.
By no earlier than November 2027	• Presenters submitting filings to Companies house must verify their identity. • Third-party agents filing on behalf of companies must be registered as an ACSP.
Accounts reform **From April 2028**	• Software-only filing for all accounts. • No option for small companies or micro-businesses to file abridged accounts (this reform has been paused). • All companies to file profit and loss accounts (this reform has been paused for smaller companies). • Small companies to file a directors' report (the UK Government has now announced plans to remove the directors' report requirement for all companies). • Companies claiming an audit exemption must confirm their eligibility for doing so. • Limit on number of times a company can shorten its accounting reference date.
Restrictions on corporate directors **(Timing not yet clear)**	Any corporate director of a company must have an all-natural person board. All directors of the corporate director must verify their identity. Prohibition of overseas companies acting as corporate directors in the UK.
Shareholders	Further transparency around shareholder ownership is expected – implementation options are currently being considered.

Get in touch

We would be happy to work with you on your analysis and implementation of any changes needed. Please contact us for more details.





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